GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4827
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2001
PROBLEMS OF POWERLOOM WEAVERS
M.V.V.S MURTHI

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the spate of suicides of powerloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh particularly in Sircilla town is continuing with four more members of a powerloom weavers` family including an eight year old girl committing suicide on April 4, 2001 following starvation;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have examined the reasons and problems which are faced by the powerloom weavers in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the corrective measures taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to supply power and yarn at subsidised rates to powerloom weavers in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR)

(a) to (e) It has been reported that 30 weavers of Powerloom Community, over a period of last two years, in and around Sircilla division of Karim Nagar District of Andhra Pradeshhave committed suicides due to a variety of reasons like high incidence of indebtedness; high power tariff and also lack of uninterrupted power supply; prevalence of diseases; poor marketability of low technology powerloom products etc. Government of A.P. has taken the following steps :

i) 500 old age and 16 widow pension case have been sanctioned to the eligible weavers.
ii) Distribution of 6,232.20 kgs. of rice @ 10 kgs distributed to the affected family members.
iii) 1100 white ration cards were distributed among the affected weavers.
iv) Health camps are being organized in the affected areas.
v) Survey of powerloom weavers is being taken up by the District Rural Development Agency at Sircilla.
vi) An Apparel Design Centre is opened at Sircilla to impart training to women on Juki (Japan) sewing machines.The Centre has already commenced its training with 20 ladies. Besides this the District Administration is taking steps to impart training in embroidery, computer and other skill- upgrading occupation.
vii) Government have planned to train 30,000 shop floor workers to provide jobs in the Apparel Export Park at Gundla Pochampally, Medchal Mandal in R.R.District.
viii) State Government have decided to give training to families of deceased powerloom workers on juki sewing machines at Common Facility Centre of Gundlapochampally.

ix) Powerloom Development Cell is being opened in the Office of the Director of Handlooms and Textiles, Hyderabad, Government of A.P.

Government is fully seized of this matter. A programme for modernisation of the decentralised powerloom sector has been announced.. In order to rationalize the power tariffs for powerloom sector, Ministry of Textiles has taken up the matter with the major textile manufacturing states in the country. Rationalisation of power tariff particularly for powerloom sector was also discussed in the Conference of State/UT Ministers and Secretaries in-charge of Textiles held on 10-4-2001 in New Delhi. There is no shortage ofyarn for the last few years.